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ACTION IO-16

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	CIAE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DODE-00	EAP-01	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SR-00
	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SA-01	RPE-01	/045W
-----48496E 181419Z /38							

O 181421Z MAY 94  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9441  
INFO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 04608

USUN PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE FERRARO

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, RW  
SUBJECT: HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON  
VISIT TO RWANDA, INTENTIONS FOR UNHRC'S SPECIAL SESSION

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.  
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SUMMARY  
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2. IN A MAY 18 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SPIEGEL, HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AYALA LASSO DESCRIBED THE  
SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN RWANDA AS "DRAMATIC AND  
TERRIBLE." HE FEARS THE MAGNITUDE OF THE TRAGEDY IS FAR  
WORSE THAN THE 200,000 REPORTED DEAD. RWANDAN  
GOVERNMENT AND RPF REPRESENTATIVES WELCOMED THE HIGH

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COMMISSIONER'S VISIT AND GAVE HIM ~~THEIR COOPERATION~~ **UNCLASSIFIED**  
BOTH SIDES ACCEPT THE IDEA OF AN INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, ALTHOUGH FOR DIFFERENT REASONS.  
AYALA HOPES THE UNHRC SPECIAL SESSION WILL UNDERSCORE  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S INTEREST AND INTENTION TO  
ACT QUICKLY, THAT IT WILL GIVE ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE  
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PRECEDENT-SETTING VISIT TO RWANDA,  
AND THAT IT WILL APPOINT A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR EMPOWERED  
TO REPORT PROMPTLY AND REGULARLY. WE PROVIDED AYALA  
WITH A COPY OF OUR DRAFT ELEMENTS FOR THE SESSION; HE  
EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THEM. AYALA ALSO  
COMMENTED ON BURUNDI (SEPTEL). END SUMMARY.

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THE HCHR'S VISIT TO RWANDA  
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3. AMBASSADOR SPIEGEL AND POLCOUNS MET WITH HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS JOSE AYALA LASSO MAY 18  
FOR A READ-OUT OF HIS TRIP TO RWANDA AND TO ASCERTAIN  
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HIS VIEWS ON THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION. AYALA BEGAN BY DESCRIBING THE  
SITUATION IN RWANDA AS "DRAMATIC AND TERRIBLE."  
LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS, HE SAID, WERE ALMOST  
NONEXISTENT. HIS PLANE LANDED IN KIGALI AMID GUNFIRE  
WHICH FORCED THE OTHER DAILY FLIGHT TO BE CANCELLED.  
THE ARMORED VEHICLES IN WHICH HE TRAVELED WERE STOPPED BY  
SEEMINGLY UNDISCIPLINED BOY-SOLDIERS WIELDING GRENADES  
AND SEEKING TUTSIS. OUTSIDE KIGALI, CORPSES LIE ROTTING  
ALONG THE ROADS AND THE SMELL OF DEATH IS IN THE AIR.  
REFUGEE CAMPS STAND EMPTY NEAR THE CITY. ALTHOUGH AYALA  
SAW NO STARVATION, HE WAS BESET BY LARGE GROUPS OF  
CHILDREN ASKING FOR FOOD. HE FEARS THAT AS MANY AS  
600,000 PEOPLE MAY HAVE BEEN MASSACRED.

4. AYALA HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR GENERAL DALLAIRE OF UNAMIR  
AND A POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE BOOH BOOH. THE HCHR WAS ABLE TO MEET  
WITH MILITARY LEADERS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT.  
HE WAS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH GENERAL KAGAMI OF THE RPF.  
RPF LEADERS WELCOMED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PRESENCE  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST HIS VISIT REPRESENTED.  
AYALA ASKED THE RPF TO CONCLUDE A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT  
WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES IN ORDER TO STOP THE CARNAGE.

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RPF LEADERS ARGUED THAT THE WORST MASSACRES IN RWANDA HAD OCCURRED DURING PERIODS OF CEASEFIRE. THE RPF WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO A CEASEFIRE ONLY AFTER REACHING AGREEMENT ON AN INVESTIGATION OF THE MASSACRES. AYALA SAID THE RPF APPEARS TO BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE KIGALI ANY TIME IT WISHES.

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5. AYALA ALSO MET WITH THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, WHO WAS LESS IMPRESSIVE AND MORE DEFENSIVE THAN THE RPF LEADERS. THE CHIEF OF STAFF INSISTED THAT ARMED GROUPS NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT OR THE ARMY HAD PERPETRATED THE MASSACRES. HE SUGGESTED THE RPF AND ITS SUPPORTERS HAD ALSO ENGAGED IN MASSACRES. AYALA WON GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF KIGALI FOR INDIVIDUALS BEING HELD HOSTAGE IN THE HOTEL MILLES COLLINES, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY IN CONTROL OF ITS TROOPS TO BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THOSE BEING HELD.

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SUBJECT: HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON  
6. RAWANDAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ALSO AGREED TO A  
UN INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, BUT WANTED THE  
FOCUS TO BE ON THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE ABUSES. BOTH  
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SIDES, AYALA SAID, ALSO WELCOMED A UN MILITARY PRESENCE  
IN RWANDA. NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR THE RPF WANTS A  
PEACEKEEPING FORCE, BUT BOTH WOULD WELCOME UN EFFORTS TO  
PROTECT REFUGEE CAMPS AND RELIEF OPERATIONS.

7. IN A CHILLING ASIDE, AYALA SAID THE ARMY CHIEF OF  
STAFF TOLD HIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE SUPPORT OF 80  
PERCENT OF RWANDA'S PEOPLE. IF THE RPF CONTINUES THE  
WAR, HE SAID, "WE'LL EXTERMINATE ALL TUTSIS."

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SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNHRC  
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8. AMBASSADOR SPIEGEL TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO THE  
UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION. HE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE  
GERALDINE FERRARO PLANS TO ATTEND AND THAT AMBASSADOR  
DAVID RAWSON MAY ALSO BE PRESENT. SPIEGEL ASKED WHAT  
AYALA WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL SESSION.

8. AYALA REPLIED THAT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HUMAN

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RIGHTS COMMISSION WILL BE PHRASED IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT HE IS SEEKING TO INSTRUCT THE COMMISSION. HE HOPES THE SPECIAL SESSION WILL DEMONSTRATE BOTH THE INTEREST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND ITS CAPACITY TO ACT QUICKLY IN THE FACE OF MASSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HE HOPES THE COMMISSION STATES ITS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. (AYALA STRESSED THAT HIS VISIT TO RWANDA HAD ESTABLISHED AN IMPORTANT PRECEDENT FOR

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WHICH HE WANTS UNHRC ENDORSEMENT.) AYALA ALSO FAVORS THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL RAPPOREUR WHO WOULD REPORT BACK TO THE COMMISSION WITHIN A LIMITED TIMEFRAME AND WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP REPORTING ON CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. HE HOPES THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR WILL BE ABLE TO CALL ON OTHER RAPPOREURS TO ASSIST AS NECESSARY.

9. SPIEGEL ASKED WHETHER AYALA ENDORSED HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS FOR RWANDA AND WHETHER HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO SEND MONITORS ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY. WE RECALLED THAT THE HCHR'S MANDATE IS BROAD AND DOES NOT PREVENT HIM FROM DOING SO. AYALA REPLIED THAT HE STRONGLY FAVORS THE IDEA OF MONITORS BUT WOULD MUCH PREFER TO HAVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TAKE THE DECISION TO SEND THEM. HE HOPES IN THIS WAY TO AVOID MAKING A CONTROVERSIAL RECOMMENDATION THAT COULD DILUTE SUPPORT FOR HIS OTHER IDEAS.

10. WE PROVIDED AYALA WITH A COPY THE ELEMENTS THE U.S. HOPES TO SEE IN THE SPECIAL SESSION'S RESOLUTION. HE LOOKED OVER THE LIST AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ITS ELEMENTS. HE WAS SOMEWHAT RESERVED ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL THAT THE COMMISSION ASK THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO MAKE THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR'S REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, EXPLAINING THAT THIS ALSO RISKED AN ELEMENT OF CONTROVERSY. WE POINTED THAT THERE WAS A PRECEDENT FOR THIS IN THE YUGOSLAVIA RESOLUTION. AYALA EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR HOLDING INDIVIDUALS ACCOUNTABLE, FOR INCLUDING A HUMAN RIGHTS ELEMENT IN ANY FORTHCOMING UN OPERATION, AND FOR ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM FOR RWANDA. HE ASKED US TO

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CONSIDER WHETHER WE MIGHT INCLUDE POSITIVE WORDS IN THE  
RESOLUTION ABOUT RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FOR RWANDA,  
ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THIS IS TECHNICALLY BEYOND THE  
COMPETENCE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

10. AYALA AND SPIEGEL AGREED TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH AND  
TO WORK TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL SPECIAL SESSION.  
SPIEGEL

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